

## INFORMATION PAPER

DAMO-SSF  
11 February 2002

SUBJECT: FAO In-Country Training Program - Czech Republic

1. **PURPOSE:** To provide a summary of the FAO in-country training program and facilities available in the Czech Republic to assist in selection and arrival time of replacement personnel. Projected in-country trainees should use the information provided to contact the incumbent trainee and/or FAO supervisor as early as possible for more detailed information.

2. **FACTS:**

a. Summary of Program:

(1) Tour Length - 12 months

(2) Normal Arrival/Departure Date – NLT 1 Aug thru Jul following year.

(3) Program Description - Attendance at one of the three facilities (Command and Staff, Military Technology, or Air Force/Aviation/Air Defense) of the Brno Military Academy in Brno, Czech Republic. This is a ten-month course that begins on the first Monday in September. Classes are Monday to Friday from 0800 until 1310. The curriculum includes quizzes, exams, short papers, and a final thesis paper. All instruction is in Czech. The standard uniform is Class B. In-country travel can be done over short weekend trips, during academic breaks, and, if necessary, during the academic period. Regional travel is best done during the longer academic breaks (Christmas and Easter) and before and after the course.

(4) Prerequisites - Captain to major, branch immaterial, combat arms recommended. Czech language 2/2/2 minimum. Some Czech is highly recommended for family members.

b. POV: Recommended but not required, as Brno and the Czech Republic have an excellent public transportation system. Czech POV registration laws change often, and the FAO should call the customs and shipping section of the US Embassy in Prague (phone no. 420-5753-0663, ext. 2365) to discuss registration and insurance requirements. Those shipping POVs from the west coast (DLI, NPS) should plan on one and a half to two months for their vehicle to arrive in Prague.

c. Household goods: Incoming FAOs should coordinate with resident FAO for recommended items to bring as accompanied and unaccompanied baggage. A personal computer with modem and scan/fax capabilities is highly recommended, as this will reduce the need to make administrative trips to the embassy. The FAO trainee will receive three transformers for all American (i.e., non-220 volt) appliances. The time for household goods (main goods) from the west coast (DLI, NPS) to arrive in Brno is two to two and a half months.

d. Housing:

(1) If desired, the Czech Army will provide the officer and his family a two-room apartment, which includes a bedroom, a living room combined with a small bedroom, a kitchen, bathroom and WC. Appliances include (half-sized) refrigerator, range/oven (usually gas), television, iron, and vacuum cleaner. A washer/dryer is not provided with the apartment, and the officer will have to rely on the local laundry service (pradelna). The apartment is furnished with dishes, pots and pans, and silverware as well. If the incoming FAO chooses to accept this option, the officer is cautioned against bringing a large amount of valuable merchandise, as there is a high crime rate and secure storage space is limited. Rent is approximately 4,000 to 4,500 crowns monthly (\$150-\$180), and is paid at the local post office to the Academy's postal account. The FAO can rent this apartment for either the entire tour or for only a short period of time (i.e., until finding a new apartment or assuming the outgoing FAO's quarters).

(2) Apartments are available on the economy although they can be expensive and hard to locate. The current FAO should be able to assist in apartment hunting. The possibility also exists to assume the current FAO's quarters upon that officer's PCS (rent plus utilities are approximately \$1000 a month). The current FAO's quarters is a large duplex with three or four bedrooms, a large living/dining room, kitchen, office, laundry room, storeroom, three bathrooms, and a one-car garage. Items that remain with the duplex include a (three quarters-sized) refrigerator, stove/oven, small washer and dryer, small electric lawn mower, water hose, and two large wardrobes (there are no built in closets). The incoming FAO is under no obligation to assume these quarters.

e. Support Facilities:

(1) Medical - The FAO trainee is covered for medical by the Czech Army. Families are eligible for medical care on the economy. They must be enrolled in TRICARE Prime, Europe. Under this program, the FAO's family obtains medical care, pays direct and is reimbursed later. Czech medical care is widely available and inexpensive, but may not meet US standards. The nearest US military care is the practical nurse at the U.S. Embassy in Prague, or at one of the clinics at U.S. Army facilities at Grafenwoehr or Vilseck, Germany. For

serious emergencies, the DAO can arrange air evacuation to the U.S. Army Hospital at Landstuhl, Germany.

(2) Dependent Schooling - There is no known American or other English-language only elementary or high school in Brno. There is at least one private school for Czechs who want their children to learn English. This school accepts children aged two to nine, but does not replace elementary school (children of school age attend this school only after completion of their regular school day). Day care for pre-schoolers is available on the local economy.

(3) PX/Commissary - None available. Prices for food products are equal to or less than commissary prices, and are widely available. Finished goods such as electronics are expensive, but are widely available. The Prague embassy has a small commissary. The FAO must pay a \$300 deposit (refundable at end of tour) to buy and order products through this commissary.

(4) Money - LES's are sent to the U.S. Embassy in Prague, where the FAO can pick them up or have them faxed to him. There is an abundance of Bankomats (ATM machines) in Brno, as well as throughout Europe. Credit cards are also widely accepted at most large stores and gas stations. Because U.S. checks are not recognized, the FAO may want to coordinate with his bank to increase the daily withdrawal limit on his credit or charge card.

(5) Mail - The FAO can receive packages and mail through the embassy in Prague. There are some minor restrictions on incoming mail, and there are heavy restrictions on the size of outgoing packages. The FAO should contact the embassy mailroom (embassy no., ext. 2417) for details. The Czech postal system is efficient and secure, though slow (airmail letters can take two weeks to arrive from and to the states).

(6) Language Instruction Availability - A Short Czech language course can be provided by the military academy (up to one month's duration). The current FAO can arrange the training. This training may not be available during August, however, as most of the instructors go on vacation during this month.

f. Rating Chain:

Rater-ARMA  
Senior Rater - DATT

g. FAOs in Training/Programmed:

MAJ Dale Bedsole

IN, 90

0107-0207

h. Addresses:

(1) Mail - USDAO Prague  
Department of State  
5630 Prague Place  
Washington, DC 20521-5630

(2) Message - USDAO PRAGUE CZ

(3) Email - usdaoprg@mbox.vol.cz

i. Phone #: 011-420-2-5753-0663 ext 2337/2338  
Fax 011-420-2-5753-2718

**3. Additional Information**

a. Bring Advanced Course, CAS3, and CGSC materials. ICT provides a good opportunity to complete them and they also serve to keep FAOs current on US doctrine.

b. FAOs should bring complete array of military uniforms.

c. FAO should plan on three days of inprocessing at the embassy in Prague.

d. Both tourist and official passports as well as visas are required for the FAO and his family. The FAO should apply for these as early as possible, and should coordinate with the personnel section of the embassy (ext. 2381) to ensure the visas are issued. When filling out your visa application do **not** indicate that you are a student or in training. Use the embassy's local address as your official place of duty. You are being assigned to the embassy as a "technical and administrative" person—not a student.

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